

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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THAI JCRC NKP AB THAI FROM CINCPAC HAWAII 21 APR 73 REPEATED TO
YOU QUOTE

UNCLAS/ J74

SECDEF FOR OASD/ PA

COMUSMACTHAI FOR PAO (COL BURKE)

PROPOSED BRIEFING (FACT SHEET) ON JCRC

A. COMUSSAG 160745 Z APR 73

1. CONCUR IN RELEASE OF REF A AS AMENDED BELOW: QUOTE

THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER (JCRC), COMMANDED BY ARMY
BRIGADIER GENERAL ROBERT C. KINGSTON, IS A JOINT TASK FORCE ESTAB-
LISHED BY AND UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF, PACIFIC.
THE UNIT IS UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF THE COMMANDER, UNITED
STATES SUPPORT ACTIVITIES GROUP (USSAG). THE JOINT CASUALTY
RESOLUTION CENTER OPERATES UNDER JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF APPROVED

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MISSION AND JOINT TABLE OF DISTRIBUTION.

THE JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER IS AN OUTGROWTH OF SERVICE
EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY, DOCUMENT, AND MAINTAIN RECORDS OF KNOWN AND
SUSPECTED MISSING IN ACTION AND PRISONERS OF WAR. THESE RECORDS
WERE INITIALLY MAINTAINED BY THE JOINT PERSONNEL RECOVERY CENTER
(JPRC) SAIGON BEGINNING IN 1966. WHEN THE JCRC WAS ESTABLISHED IN
SAIGON ON 23 JANUARY 1973, THE RECORDS OF THE JPRC WERE TURNED OVER

TO THE NEW ORGANIZATION. ON 15 FEBRUARY 1973, THE JCRC RELOCATED TO NAKHON PHANOM ROYAL THAI AIR FORCE BASE IN NORTHEAST THAILAND. FROM ITS CURRENT LOCATION THE JCRC IS CENTRALLY LOCATED IN RELATIONSHIP TO ALL THE AREAS IN WHICH IT WILL OPERATE.

THE MISSION OF THE JCRC IS TO ASSIST IN RESOLVING THE STATUS OF THOSE U. S. PERSONNEL MISSING IN ACTION (MIA) AND THOSE PERSONNEL DECLARED DEAD WHOSE BODIES WERE NOT RECOVERED (BNR), THROUGH THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION/ COORDINATION AND/ OR CONDUCT OF OPERATIONS TO LOCATE AND INVESTIGATE CRASH AND GRAVE SITES AND RECOVER AND IDENTIFY REMAINS THROUGHOUT SOUTHEAST ASIA. THE ENTIRE OPERATION IS HUMANITARIAN IN NATURE.

TO UNDERSTAND THE SCOPE OF THE JCRC MISSION, THE WORKLOAD CAN BE BEST EXPRESSED IN NUMBERS OF INDIVIDUALS AND IN THE NUMBERS OF CRASH

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SITES WHICH MUST BE LOCATED AND INSPECTED. AS OF 6 APRIL, 1279 MEN WERE CARRIED AS MISSING IN ACTION AND AN ADDITIONAL 1136 HAD BEEN DECLARED DEAD BY THEIR SERVICE, BUT REMAINS WERE NOT RECOVERED. THE SPECIFIC FIGURES CONSTANTLY CHANGE AS NEW INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE AND THE SERVICES CHANGE THE STATUS OF THEIR INDIVIDUALS. THESE 2415 AMERICANS ARE IN THE MIA/ BNR CATEGORIES THROUGHOUT SE ASIA; IN SOUTH VIETNAM, NORTH VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA. OF THE TOTAL FIGURE OF 2415, 977 ARE AIR FORCE PERSONNEL; 707 ARMY; 416 NAVY; 196 MARINE CORPS; AND THE REMAINDER ARE CIVILIANS. MOST OF THE MISSING IN ACTION ARE FROM THE AIR FORCE, WITH THE MAJORITY OF THESE MISSING OVER NORTH VIETNAM. MOST OF THOSE KILLED WHOSE REMAINS WERE NOT RECOVERED, ARE FROM THE ARMY, WITH THE MAJORITY OF THESE IN SOUTH VIETNAM.

THE OTHER MEANS OF EXPLAINING THE TASK AHEAD IS BY THE NUMBER OF CRASH SITES IN WHICH IT IS EXPECTED THERE MIGHT BE FOUND THE REMAINS OF PERSONNEL UNACCOUNTED FOR, SINCE 1,928 OF THOSE MISSING UNCLASSIFIED

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OR BODIES NOT RECOVERED ARE THE RESULT OF AIR CRASHES. THERE ARE MORE THAN 1000 SUCH CRASH SITES INVOLVING OVER 50 DIFFERENT TYPES AND MODELS OF AIRCRAFT. THE NUMBER VARIES FROM NEARLY 371 IN NORTH VIETNAM TO LESS THAN 17 IN CAMBODIA. THESE CRASH SITES ARE

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ON MOUNTAINS, IN JUNGLES, AND THE MANY OTHER TYPES OF RUGGED TERRAIN IN SE ASIA. APPROXIMATELY 150 OF THE CRASHES WERE AT SEA. THE TASK BECOMES EVEN MORE COMPLEX SINCE MORE THAN 90 PERCENT ARE IN AREAS UNDER CONTROL OF THE EX- BELLIGERENTS.

IN PLANNING FOR OUR FIELD OPERATIONS WE USE THE FOLLOWING ASSUMPTIONS:

THE GOVERNMENTS OF VIETNAM, CAMBODIA, AND LAOS WILL COOPERATE WITH THE U. S. BY CONDUCTING OR PARTICIPATING IN CASUALTY RESOLUTION OPERATIONS.

JCRC OPERATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, LAOS, AND CAMBODIA WILL BE EXEMPT FROM ANY IMPOSED STRENGTH CEILINGS.

CONDITIONS FOR COORDINATION WITH PERSONNEL IN COUNTRIES CONCERNED

WILL BE PROVIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH TERMS OF THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENTS.

LIAISON OFFICERS WILL COORDINATE IN- COUNTRY ACTIVITIES
THROUGH CINCPAC SENIOR MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES OR AMEMB' S.

JCRC ACTIVITIES WILL BE AUTHORIZED IN NOGTH VIETNAM.

JCRC TEAMS WILL BE AUTHORIZED ACCESS TO ALL PERTINENT AREAS
OF SE ASIA TO CONDUCT CASUALTY RESOLUTION OPERATIONS.

TO ACCOMPLISH THE CASUALTY RESOLUTION MISSION, THE JCRC MUST HAVE

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THE AUTHORITY AND FULL COOPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED, TO
OPERATE IN THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE WE ANTICIPATE FINDING MIA AND BNR
REMAINS. ACTICLE 8 B OF THE TEXT OF THE QUOTE AGREEMENT ON THE
ENDING OF THE WAR AND RESTORING PEACE IN VIETNAM UNQUOTE STATES
THAT: QUOTE THE PARTIES SHALL HELP EACH OTHER TO GET INFORMATION
ABOUT THOSE MILITARY PERSONNEL AND FOREIGN CIVILIANS OF THE PARTIES
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MISSING IN ACTION, TO DETERMINE THE LOCATION AND TAKE CARE OF THE
GRAVES OF THE DEAD SO AS TO FACILITATE THE EXHUMATION AND REPATRIA-
TION OF THE REMAINS, AND TO TAKE ANY SUCH MEASURES AS MAY BE
REQUIRED TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT THOSE STILL CONSIDERED MISSING IN
ACTION. UNQUOTE.

BRIGWDIER GENERAL KINGSTON WILL BE ASSISTED BY LIAISON OFFICERS
IN HANOI, VIENTIANE, AND PHNOM PENH PROVIDING ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE
EFFECTED WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED.

IN SAIGON, THE JCRC HAS AN OFFICER WITHIN THE DEFENSE ATTACHE' S
OFFICER, THEREBY PROVIDING DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE FOUR- PARTY
JOINT MILITARY TEAM.

THE JCRC IS ORGANIZED UNDER A DUAL DEPUTY SYSTEM: THE DEPUTY
COMMANDER FOR STAFF OPERATIONS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STAFF PLANNING
AND COORDINATION; THE DEPUTY COMMANDER FOR THE FIELD OPERATIONS

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SUPERVISES THE FIELD UNITS.

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE JCRC IS SHOWN AT INCLOSURE 1. THE STAFF
CARRIES OUT NORMAL STAFF FUNCTIONS. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ARE WARRANT-
ED ON FOUR OF THE STAFF ELEMENTS.

THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER ON THE STAFF PROVIDES ALL AVAIL-
ABLE INFORMATION ON JCRC ACTIVITIES TO THE MACTHAI PAO IN BANGKOK.
A JCRC OFFICER IS ASSIGNED TO THAT OFFICE, WHERE HE SERVES AS A
CASUALTY RESOLUTION POINT OF CONTACT AND IS IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH
THE JCRC ON ALL CASUALTY RESOLUTION MATTERS.

THE CASUALTY DATA DIVISION ASSEMBLES, CORRELWTZS, AND
ANALYZES INFORMATION ON PERSONNEL WHO ARE MISSING IN THE VICINITY
OF CRASHHAND BURIAL SITES. THE FUNCTION OF THIS DIVISION INCLUDES
DATA ANALYSIS, PHOTO INTZRPETATION OF AERIAL PHOTOS OF CRASH SITES,
CRASH/ GRAVE SITE IDENTIFICATION OF AREAS IN WHICH JCRC TEAMS WILL
OPERATE AND THE MAINTAINING OF CASUALTY RECORDS OR DOSSIERS ON THOSE
PERSONNEL WHO HAVE BEEN IN A MISSING IN ACTION STATUS AT ONE TIME OR
ANOTHER DURING THE CONFLICT.

THE OPERATIONS DIVISION HAS NORMAL FUNCTION OF OPERA-

TIONS, PLANS AND COMMUNICATIONS. IT ALSO HAS A PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS
BRANCH WHICH PROVIDES STAFF ASSISTANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL-
SOURCE MEDIA FOR USE IN THE HOST COUNTGIES IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING CRASH AND BURIAL SITES.

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THE MAJOR SUBORDINATE ELEMENTS INVOLVED IN FIELD OPERATIONS ARE
TWO CONTROL TEAMS, ONE ORIENTED TOWARD OPERATIONS IN VIETNAM AND ONE
TOWARD LAOS AND CAMBODIA. THESE CONTROL TEAMS PROVIDE COMMAND AND
CONTROL OF CASUALTY RESOLUTION FIELD TEAMS, EACH COMPRISED OF FIVE
MEN, AND WILL HAVE OPERATIONAL COMMAND OF ALL SPECIAL AUGMENTATION
PERSONNEL NEEDED TO ACCOMPLISH THE MISSION. THE LAUNCH UNIT HAS THE

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JOB OF LAUNCHING, SUPPORTING, AND EXTRACTING THE FIELD TEAMS AND
PROVIDES FOR REQUISITE AIR, COMMUNICATIONS, AND LOGISTICS SUPPOGT.

THE FIELD TEAMS WHICH WILL SEARCH FOR CRASH OR GRAVE SITES
CONSIST OF AN OFFICER, A RADIO OPERATOR, A MEDIC, AN INTERPRETER,
AND A GENERAL DUTY ASSISTANT TO THE OFFICER IN CHARGE, WHO ARE ALL
SPECIAL FORCES TROOPS. SPECIAL FORCES PERSONNEL WILL BE USED
LARGELY BECAUSE THEY ARE TRAINED TO OPERATE HARMONIOUSLY WITH
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, ARE FAMILIAR WITH JUNGLE TERRAIN AND SURVIVAL
TECHNIQUES AND ARE AVAILWBLE FOR THIS HUMANITARIAN EFFORT WITH
MINIMUM ADDITIONAL TRAINING. THE FIELD TEAMS WILL BE AUGMENTED AS
REQUIRED, BY AIR FORCE AIR CRASH INVESTIGATNORS, ORDNANCE DEMOLITION
EXPERTS PROVIDED TO DISARM UNEXPENDED ORDNANCE AND BOOBY TRAPS NEAR
CRASH SITES, AND BY INDIGENOUS PERSONNEL WHO WILL ASSIST IN THE
SEARCH AND ON- SITE OPERATIONS. THE JCRC HAS 11 ORGANIC FIELD TEAMS,
WITH AN AUGMENTATION CAPABILITY OF 10 MORE TEAMS FROM THE 1 ST SPECIAL
FORCES GROUP ON OKINAWA AND 16 TEAMS FROM U. S. SPECIAL FORCES ASSETS
IN THAILAND.

THE CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY, THAILAND (CIL/ THAI),
LOCATED AT SAMAE SAN, BETWEEN UTAPAO AND SATTAHIPHIN SOUTHERN
THAILAND, SOUTH OF BANGKOK, IS UNDER THE OPERATIONAL COMMAND OF THE

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JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER. THE CIL/ THAI IS ORGANIZED INTO AN
IDENTIFICATION LABORATORY AND EIGHT FIVE- MAN RECOVERY TEAMS WHICH
WILL ACCOMPANY THE CASUALTY RESOLUTION FIELD TEAMS.

THE FIELD TEAMS WILL BE DEPLOYED IN VARIOUS WAYS. THEY CAN BE
UTILIZED AS SEPARATE ENTITIES IN THE SEARCH OPERATIONS FOR SELECTED
LOCATIONS, OR THEY CAN BE DEPLOYED IN A CLUSTERED ARRANGEMENT. THE
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CONCEPT VISUALIZES A NUMBER OF CONCURRENT AND CONSECUTIVE CRASH/ GRAVE
SITE OPERATIONS LOCATED IN ONE GENERAL AREA. THIS AREA WOULD BE IN
THE VICINITY OF A FORWARD OPERATING BASE WHICH IDEALLY WOULD BE
ADJACENT TO AN AIR STRIP THAT COULD ACCOMODATE ARRIVAL, RESUPPLY,
AND DEPARTURE AIRCRAFT. THE CLUSTER CONCEPT PROVIDES A SINGLE AREA
TO CONCENTRATE ON, ALLOWS FOR MAXIMUM ADVANTAGE TO BE TAKEN OF

PREDICTED CLIMATIC AND WEATHER CYCLES, MAXIMIZES THE USE OF HELICOPTERS BY SHORT BUT FREQUENT MISSIONS TO SUPPORT SEVERAL TEAMS IN ONE AREA, ENHANCES THE COMMAND, CONTROL, AND COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT OF A NUMBER OF FIELD TZAMS FROM THE CENTRAL OPERATING BASE, FACILITATES LOGISTICS AND REDUCES THE INSERTION PROBLEM OF THE SPECIAL AUGMENTATION PERSONNEL (EOD, CRASH INVESTIGATORS, DOCUMENTARY PHOTOGRAPHERS, AND CIL/ THAI RECOVERY TEAMS).

A REVIEW OF THE STEPS THAT WOULD BE INVOLVED IN THE RECOVERY

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PROCESS FOLLOWS. FIRST, THE CASUALTY RESOLUTION STAFF DEVELOPS SELECTED AREAS FOR SEARCH AND INVESTIGATION BASED ON KNOWN CRASH AND GRAVE SITES. THE DETAILED PLANNING AND COORDINATION EFFORT USING ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION, CULMINATES IN AN AERIAL SEARCH OF THE AREA, IF AUTHORIZED. THIS COMBINED RESEARCH WILL BE FOLLOWED BY INSERTION OF THE FORWARD OPERATING BASE AND LATER THE FIELD TEAMS AND SPECIAL AUGMENTATION PERSONNEL. A DETAILED SEARCH AND INSPECTION WILL FOLLOW. THE RESULTS OF EACH OF THESE MISSIONS WILL BE CAREFULLY DOCUMENTED. UPON COMPLETION OF THE SEARCH AND INVESTIGATION PROCESS, THE TEAMS AND FORWARD OPERATING BASE WILL BE EXTRACTED. REMAINS THAT HAVE BEEN LOCATED WILL BE FLOWN TO THE CIL/ THAI FOR IDENTIFICATION. AFTER ANALYSIS AND RECORDING HAS BEEN COMPLETED, A DETAILED REPORT WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE SERVICES, TO ASSIST IN FINAL DETERMINATION ON STATUS OF THE PERSONNEL. IDENTIFIED REMAINS WILL BE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES FOR BURIAL AS DESIRED BY NEXT OF KIN. UNQUOTE ROGERS

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